



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Wednesday
13 November 1991

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Pik Botha: Baltics Agree To Establish Relations

MB0611145991 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1334 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Pretoria Nov 6 SAPA—The Latvian, Estonian and Lithuanian Governments have agreed to establish full diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level with South Africa.

This was announced by Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Pik Botha on his departure from Vilnius, Lithuania, this week.

A statement released by the department in Pretoria on Wednesday said the three Baltic states had a full understanding of the South Africa reform process and recognised the integrity of State President F.W. de Klerk as well as the "unquestionable irreversibility of the reform process".

The statement said the three states had also indicated their unequivocal rejection of the tenets of Marxist ideology including notions of a planned centralised economy, one-party system, and mass demonstrations or intimidation.

"It was also found that there is no difference between the basic political and economic principles of the SA [South African] Government and the governments of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania."

The visit by the minister to the three states had provided valuable insight into the complexities of the situation in the Baltic states, their struggle to attain economic upliftment and the will of the people to achieve success, said the statement.

It said Mr Botha and his delegation had been "exceptionally well received" in the three states.

In Latvia Mr Botha was received by his Latvian counterpart Mr Janis Jurkans who also hosted an official dinner attended by the Prime Minister Mr Ivars Godmanis and the President Mr Anatolijs Gorbunovs.

At Tallinn in Estonia Mr Botha was received by Foreign Minister Mr Lennart Meri, the Prime Minister Mr Edgar Savisaar and the President, Mr Arnold Ruutel.

On his visit to the Estonian Parliament he was welcomed by the speaker and given a standing ovation, said the statement.

"At the request of the minority fraction of Russian deputies, the minister received a delegation and held discussions with them."

In Lithuania Mr Botha held talks with Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Algirdas Saudargas, the Deputy Prime Minister [title as received] Mr Vytautas Pakainiskis and the president, Prof Vytautas Landsbergis.

The statement said that in discussions in the three states trade and commercial relations and scientific and technical co-operation had been raised.

Cultural exchanges had also been made.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Relations With Italy

MB1211173891 Johannesburg South African
Broadcasting Corporation Network in English
1100 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] The deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Renier Schoeman, says South Africa and Italy are on the threshold of a new phase in relations.

Mr. Schoeman was speaking in Pretoria after talks with his Italian counterpart, Mr. Andrea Borruso, who is on an official visit to this country. Mr. Schoeman said positive implications would flow from the strengthening of the relations between the two countries.

Mr. Borruso said that the extensive talks held between the two countries could lead to the establishment of formal structures.

Reportage on Violence at President Steyn Gold Mine

Management Sending Workers Home

MB1111202591 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1607 GMT 11 Nov 91

[By Lew Elias]

[Text] Johannesburg Nov 11 SAPA—About half of the 4000 to 5000 employees at the violence-wracked President Steyn gold mine near Welkom in the Northern Free State, were on their way home on Monday afternoon as part of management's efforts to defuse the violence which has been raging since Sunday last week.

Freegold Regional Manager Jan Rossouw told a press conference in Johannesburg that about 2500 miners from groups involved in the fighting—mainly Xhosa and Sotho speakers—were being sent home until the situation had resolved itself and order had been brought to the mine.

The 2500 miners would remain at home without pay.

Mr Rossouw said the situation had largely calmed down.

All the incidents of violence took place after dark and control of people under such circumstances was extremely difficult, Mr Rossouw said.

During the week mine security and the SA [South African] Police [SAP], in an attempt to defuse the situation, had conducted weapons searches of the hostels and visitors had been searched as well, Anglo's Gold and Uranium Division Chairman Clem Sunter told the conference.

At least five handguns had been found buried during these searches.

Mr Rossouw said combatants had used whatever had come to hand during the fighting, which mainly took place around the hostels.

Weapons included pieces of the concrete walkway, shower pipes, iron bars and tree branches.

Although one non-employee had been killed and another had been injured, Mr Sunter said, Anglo did not want to "speculate on their role" in the light of the violence being investigated by the standing commission on violence and intimidation chaired by Mr Justice R J Goldstone.

Many questions concerning the violence and its causes were fielded by saying Anglo did not want to pre-empt the committee's work or decisions.

"The standing commission on violence and intimidation under the chairmanship of Justice R J Goldstone, has been asked to investigate and to establish authoritatively and causes of the violence.

"In view of the fact that this process has now been set in motion the parties are not at liberty to speculate on the causes of the violence," Mr Sunter said in his statement.

After the first attack on Sunday, November 3, a maximum mine security presence was maintained at President Steyn along with the active involvement of the SAP.

Since the November 3 outbreak in which 16 people died, management asked officials of the National Union of Mineworkers to visit the mine over the weekend in a further attempt to normalise the situation. Representatives of the Governments of Lesotho, the Transkei and the Ciskei also visited the mine.

Operations at the mine's Number Two and Four shafts were curtailed on Monday in an attempt to normalise the situation.

Mr Rossouw said the shafts were still open with a small number of staff working there.

Mr Sunter appealed to all parties to exercise restraint, and to cooperate with the investigation by the standing commission on violence and intimidation.

Mine Suffers Production Losses

*MB1211174491 Johannesburg South African Broadcasting Corporation Network in English
1400 GMT 12 Nov 91*

[Text] A spokesman for the President Steyn gold mine in Welkom said production loss at the Number Four shaft following the violence at the weekend is about 1 million rands a day.

He said the 2500 workers at the hostel at the shaft, who were sent home, would return to work in the next few days. No decision has been taken yet on whether to send

the workers at the Number Two shaft, where the situation is still tense, back home for a cooling-off period. The hostel dwellers did not report for work this morning.

Death Toll Reaches 76

*MB1211173691 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1355 GMT 12 Nov 91*

[Text] Welkom Nov 12 SAPA—The death-toll from fighting at Freegold's President Steyn gold mine near Welkom has risen to 76 after six more workers died overnight as a result of injuries sustained, police have confirmed.

Free State Police spokesman, Lt Col Johan Fouche, said police were investigating reports that some of those killed during the clashes had not been employed at the mine.

He said police could not yet confirm the allegations, due to difficulties in the identification of the bodies. Police had resorted to taking fingerprints of the deceased, in an attempt to establish their identities, he said.

The situation at the Northern Free State mine was calm on Tuesday as between 4000 and 5000 miners were sent home to "cool off." Following clashes that left between 69 and 70 workers dead and scores wounded.

Anglo American spokesman, Mr James Duncan, said only a handful of workers still remained at the mine's Number Four shaft hostels, where at least 28 miners died and 100 were wounded in bitter fighting at the weekend.

He said the workers would be called back progressively over the next few days.

The mood at the number two shaft hostels remained tense.

"There are two distinct factions who haven't gone to work and are talking to management about their grievances. Managers are trying to convince them to refrain from violence."

Production at President Steyn has been limited to its Number One shaft, but gold shares on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange showed no reaction to the situation there. [passage omitted]

Viljoen Warns PAC Against Armed Struggle

*MB0811081591 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2237 GMT 7 Nov 91*

[Text] Pretoria Nov 7 SAPA—The minister of constitutional development, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, has expressed concern at PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] statements that the armed struggle would be continued.

In a statement on Thursday, the minister said any organisation acknowledging responsibility for continuing armed action and for assassinations, was "seriously imperilling its own involvement in genuine and peaceful negotiations".

It was imperative that the PAC urgently clarified its position in this regard, the minister said.

PAC To Seek 'Clarification' From APLA

*MB0811140091 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1133 GMT 8 Nov 91*

[Text] Cape Town Nov 8 SAPA—The Pan-Africanist Congress [PAC] is to seek clarification from commanders of the PAC's military wing about reports that it had claimed responsibility for a number of recent attacks on policemen, SABC radio news reported on Friday.

The PAC's secretary general, Benny Alexander, told the SABC's political staff that he was not in a position to confirm or deny the reports.

He said the Azanian Peoples' Liberation Army (APLA) had its own command structures emanating from Dar es Salaam, and did not consult the PAC's internal leadership.

Mr Alexander said the reported APLA claims in no way jeopardised the PAC's commitment to ending internecine violence.

He revealed the organisation's deputy president was currently in the border region on a peace mission.

Bophuthatswana President Fetes Italian Visitors

*MB0911172391 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1615 GMT 9 Nov 91*

[SAPA PR Wire Service issued by Dixon Soule Associates: "Speech by his excellency the president of Bophuthatswana, Dr Lucas M. Mangope, on the occasion of a dinner in honour of a visiting Italian Government delegation to Mmabatho on 9 November 1991"]

The honourable Doctors Borruso, Paolini, Pecorelli, D'Andria and Tarallo, honourable members of the Bophuthatswana Cabinet, ladies and gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure this evening to welcome such a distinguished group of visitors to Bophuthatswana from one of the cradles of democracy in the world today ... Italy.

Italy is a relatively small country in terms of land mass, but it is an indisputable giant in every human endeavour imaginable.

It has given the world much of the finest mankind has inherited by way of art and culture. It has led the way in many scientific and industrial fields, and continues to set standards which have become the benchmarks for excellence worldwide.

Indeed Italy and its people, their innovativeness, their capacity for hard work, and their feel for that quality

called style are objectives to which any developing country would do well to aspire.

I like to think that within the parameters of its resources Bophuthatswana and the Batswana people reflect in embryo the qualities that have made Italy the great nation it is today.

One of those qualities the two peoples have in common is the increasingly rare attribute called tolerance, particularly in the political field.

Anyone visiting Italy from Africa must surely at first be confused at the diversity of political activity in that country. But as one familiarises oneself with the system one is left almost breathless at the revelation of a true democracy at work.

For it to work as well as it does and survive, one of its underlying strengths must surely be the extent of tolerance, the willingness to listen to the other man's point of view and to make admissions of error when these are justified.

It is one of the tragedies of recent African countries to rectify this problem—the latest being in Zambia—but these are few and far between and the results are all too often disappointing.

Our visitors from Italy will therefore be delighted to hear that from its creation 14 years ago, Bophuthatswana adopted a constitution which remains a democratic beacon to the rest of Africa and many countries beyond.

Our economic policies based on the free enterprise ethic are renowned, so much so that in its upcoming edition one of South Africa's top productivity publications is urging the adoption of our system by the new South Africa to pull that country out of its economic woes.

But despite our impressive record of achievements, despite the fact that we have proven beyond question our viability as an independent nation, we remain vilified and downplayed by a large section of the regional and international media, as well as certain political interests who cannot afford to see us succeed.

We remain for these people an effective stumbling block on their path to a form of centralised dictatorial unitary government which would see the rich tapestry of nations in southern Africa, each with its own language and identity, consigned to the cultural scrapheap.

We are not alone in resisting what we see as an abrogation of everything we have stood and fought for so many years.

The trend worldwide, witnessed so vividly and tragically in Eastern Europe in recent months, is for peoples, no matter how small in number, to be afforded recognition of their identity and their nationhood.

To ignore this basic human need is to invite confrontation, and southern African people are no different from their European counterparts in this respect. This desire to fiercely protect identity, this pride in nationhood and belonging, this love of language and culture, will have to be effectively addressed if lasting peace and stability are to be achieved in South Africa.

Which brings me back to the need in our region for tolerance given more tolerance on the part of all concerned with the changes which are taking place, and which will continue to take place for years to come as all traces of apartheid are eradicated, the future does hold much promise.

We need to listen to one another and be much, much more considerate of opinions which differ from those we hold. Where we are able to we all need to compromise, where we cannot compromise we must at least be more flexible.

For our part Bophuthatswana has adopted an open door policy which has been government representatives aggressively seeking contact and dialogue with as wide a cross section of representative opinion as we can possibly reach in southern Africa and abroad.

We have gone out of our way to accommodate the views of our supporters and detractors alike.

Where we have been able to we have done our best to contribute to the spirit of a new and democratic approach to the resolutions of the problems of our region.

The timing of the visit by our distinguished visitors from Italy is fortuitous in that their arrival coincided with another practical demonstration of our commitment to creating an atmosphere conducive to reconciliation in southern Africa.

Earlier today my government released another 27 so-called political prisoners. As I speak, these men have either been returned to their homes and families, or they are in the process of being transported home.

When we started the process of releasing these coup attempt prisoners some 10 months ago, we indicated at the time that we did not regard them as political prisoners in the sense of the Pretoria Minute or any other agreement. They were convicted in open court of the criminal offence of trying to topple a legitimately elected democratic government through the barrel of a gun, instead of through the ballot box.

Their actions could only have been considered politically justified had they been living in a system where they had no recourse to challenging the government. In Bophuthatswana we are proud of the fact that government here can be changed by the will of the people, through the ballot box, every five years.

The release of these prisoners is part of an ongoing process which should be seen as an indication that we are

a people of our word. That we are prepared to go the extra mile to play our part in the changes taking place in southern Africa.

We do not intend stopping at gestures of this nature. Any fundamental political changes which occur in South Africa must logically affect the future of Bophuthatswana. We are therefore determined that our voice and options will be heard in negotiations which lead to change.

We have been accused of hampering progress simply because we refuse to submit to pressure on the question of reincorporation. I would first ask what government in its right mind would throw its people's lot into a situation whose outcome is unknown.

Before we make the most important decision since independence 14 years ago, we want to know what kind of dispensation is to emerge from the chaotic and bloody situation in which South Africa finds itself at the moment. We as government would be failing dismally in our duty were we to take this easy way out.

We took independence 14 years ago to escape the apartheid yoke and begin regaining ground lost after the British had split the Batswana people with the heartless stroke of a pen.

During this relatively short period we have restored the pride and dignity of our people. Starting with nothing but our will and determination to succeed, we have built and sustained an infrastructure which many a country would be proud of.

We have achieved and maintained one of the highest growth rates on the continent of Africa. We have provided hundreds of thousands of jobs, built up an enviable education and health infrastructure, taken care of our aged, looked after the needs of our farmers who have helped us become self-sufficient in basic food requirements, nurtured and developed our scarce water resources, led the way in Africa in terms of nature and game conservation, become trend setters in radio and television broadcasting, and to top it all we have set the standards by which tourism will be judged far into the future.

Yet despite all these achievements, all of them attained without political turmoil, without international hand-outs, and to the benefit of our people as a whole, our detractors would have the world believe that we are a stereotypical banana republic on the point of collapse.

They know in their heart of hearts that we are justified in seeking a dispensation in which Bophuthatswana can become intimately involved without sacrificing its identity and all autonomy on the altar of political expediency.

In closing I would like to extend to Dr Borruso and his distinguished delegation the sincere appreciation of the government and the people of Bophuthatswana for their decision to visit our beautiful country.

To have done so at this particular time in the history of southern Africa, and in the face of the criticism the visit will no doubt elicit from our country's detractors, is a magnificent gesture which will not be forgotten. You have shown a determination to see for yourself and make up your own minds, a trait which is becoming all too rare in world politics today.

Your government's support and its willingness to listen to both sides of a story in the past few months has been an encouraging experience for us.

We can only hope that other Western governments take a leaf from your book in future.

You and your delegation take leave of us tomorrow with an open invitation to return to our beautiful country for a more leisurely visit whenever you wish.

Finally, I would ask you all to charge your glasses and rise to join me in toasting our two great countries.

To Bophuthatswana, and Italy.

Thank you.

Ciskei's Gqozo Abolishes ANC-Linked Groups

*MB0611075991 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0500 GMT 6 Nov 91*

[Text] Ciskei's military ruler has officially abolished all residence associations in the homeland.

Brigadier Oupa Gqozo has accused the associations of being responsible for a wave of violence in Ciskei, which included intimidation and brutality. Gqozo says the associations will no longer operate on behalf of the people and that local governments in the form of headmen have been reintroduced. Announcing their abolition, Gqozo said that if the associations continued to operate they'd be acting in the interests of the ANC [African National Congress], not the military government.

He said the associations were originally permitted in Ciskei on the recommendation of the ANC leadership, but that once they'd been set up they had wanted to take over the government's role.

Ciskei's Gqozo Addresses Group in East London

Cited on Crime, Democracy

*MB1211061591 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2204 GMT 11 Nov 91*

[Text] East London Nov 11 SAPA—Unless criminals learn that crime does not pay in the Ciskei, and that education is a priority and revolution is irrelevant, the state of anarchy will be sustained, says military ruler Brig Oupa Gqozo. Addressing the East London branch of the Institute of International Affairs on Monday [11 November], Brig Gqozo said some organisations in the

homeland had made crime a paying concern with the recruitment of "released terrorists, murderers and salesmen of AK-47s".

It was unfortunate, he said, that most of the population of the Ciskei did not share common values. There were groups that wanted nothing less than Stalinist totalitarian power. "We will speak the language all wrongdoers, criminals, arsonists and intimidators should understand, and respond to lawful demands of national security, law and order."

A problem was that democracy meant different things to different people. Brig Gqozo pointed out that to some it was not murder if a political opponent was killed. It only became murder if a "comrade was killed". "It is political hypocrisy if leaders continue to condone this interpretation of democratic principles."

Brig Gqozo said it was not enough that the national peace accord was signed by the national leaders. "Errant" communities should sign the accord and assume responsibilities for such a commitment. "Then and then only will we have an environment conducive for economic development and democratic political activity."

Says Peace Committee Formed

*MB1211062891 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2209 GMT 11 Nov 91*

[Text] East London Nov 11 SAPA—The Ciskei had formed a peace committee to report contraventions of the national peace accord to "applicable committees" within the accord, the homeland's military ruler, Brig Oupa Gqozo, said on Monday [11 November] night. Brig Gqozo told a meeting of the East London branch of the SA [South African] Institute of International Affairs that the peace committee would consist of a Ciskeian minister who would chair the committee, an ombudsman, a high-ranking Ciskeian police officer, a defence force member "involved with intelligence", and a lawyer. All contraventions of the peace accord would be reported to the ombudsman by the police, defence force, any government institution, or "any person or group of persons".

He said the names would be announced next Sunday at a regional peace meeting with the national peace committee. The peace committee would consist of people in the border and "our immediate neighbours" but, he cautioned, "this should not be mistaken for a sort of boxing ring. It's a committee in Ciskei with responsible people on it to report what atrocities are aimed at Ciskei and at the people in the region". "Naturally we will speak to people who speak our own language. It's no use speaking to people who speak Greek," he said.

Brig Gqozo said President F W de Klerk's "hands are tied". If President de Klerk took effective action against offenders he was "damned vociferously" but if he did

not act he was accused of incompetence, he said. "This attitude towards his leadership is both hypocritical and irresponsible," he said.

Brig Gqozo went on to say he was against political intolerance and violence and supported "negotiations which should not mean domination". The Ciskei's immediate future did not rest on "some grand document of state or bill of rights only," he said, referring to the argument against the the state of emergency, which has effectively emasculated the region's 9-month-old bill of rights.

Ciskei Council Notes 'Secret' Documents on Plot

*MB1311085491 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0500 GMT 13 Nov 91*

[Text] The Ciskei Council of State says it has secret documents detailing plans by unidentified plotters to oust the military government.

In a statement issued after the Border Peace Conference steering committee, BPC, with South African Government ministers yesterday, Ciskei accused the BPC of attempting to pressurize Acting Foreign Minister Barend du Plessis to help it to replace the existing Ciskei Government. [sentence as heard] However, following that meeting it became clear that Pretoria is not prepared to discuss the removal of Ciskei's military ruler, Brigadier Oupa Gqozo.

Du Plessis said because of South Africa's formal recognition of Ciskei's sovereign independence, it can't discuss the replacement of the government there. Du Plessis said the future of Ciskei is a matter for the multiparty conference.

In its statement, the Ciskei Council of State says it has been privy to very secret papers detailing the ambitions of certain parties, which it doesn't name, to destabilize the area and overthrow the government.

The statement says when the declaration of the state emergency was (?reported) a transparent attempt was made to drive a wedge between the South African Government and Ciskei.

Ciskei's Gqozo Announces Plans for Newspaper

*MB1211060891 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2053 GMT 11 Nov 91*

[Text] Bisho Nov 11 SAPA—The Ciskeian military ruler, Brig Oupa Gqozo, on Monday [11 November] evening announced plans to establish the homeland's own newspaper. "After careful consideration it has been decided that it would be in the interest of my people to start a newspaper that would convey relevant facts concerning the situation in the Ciskei and the Border Region," he said in a statement.

"This decision was taken in the light of an obvious lack of objective media reporting specific to the Ciskei," he added. The newspaper, to be called "THE BORDER POST", is scheduled to be launched in six months.

Press Reviews on Current Events, Developments RSA, Namibia Press Review 8 Nov

MB0811130491

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

Multiparty Talks 'Tantalisingly Close'—"The green light for the long-awaited all-party conference is burning so brightly that it might even make a hole in the clouds of despondency which have settled over South Africa," claims a page 14 editorial in Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 8 November. "True, the PAC's [Pan-Africanist Congress] re-emphasis of its 'armed struggle' is worrying, and [Conservative Party leader] Dr Treurnicht's devotees are still playing hard to get. But the fact that the meeting is now so tantalisingly close is greatly encouraging; earlier this year it would have taken a brave punter to place a bet on November seeing the start of real negotiations." Although the multiparty talks will be "drawn out and at times messy," they signal the "beginning of sorely needed consensus-building in South Africa."

BUSINESS DAY

Government Urged To Abolish Secrecy Laws—Noting the secrecy regarding government subsidies to the South African Coal, Oil and Gas Corporation, Sasol, Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 8 November in a page 10 editorial says: "Government must immediately scrap the secrecy laws and regulations governing oil, our nuclear industry, arms, bilateral trade, foreign finance and secret funding of 'strategic' stockpiles." "While large sections of government, business and industry hide their activities we should perhaps not be surprised if organisations such as the ANC [African National Congress] or COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] appear to have only tenuous grasps of economic reality. They will not be the only ones suspicious of what they are told by businesses or government for whom secrecy has become second nature."

SOWETAN

Government's Arbitrary Decision-Making No Longer Tolerated—"Arbitrary decision-making affecting the lives of millions of black South Africans will no longer be tolerated," says Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 8 November in a page 10 editorial. "It was sheer folly in the first instance for the Government to believe it could, in the South Africa of today, take arbitrary decisions like imposing VAT [value-added tax] without due reference to the majority." The government dismisses the stay-away as the "machinations of people with 'hidden agendas'" at its "own peril." "It is also dangerous for the Government to believe it will be able to proceed in the 'baasskap' [dominance] manner of yesteryear."

THE WEEKLY MAIL

Government Lacks Legitimacy To Rule—Johannesburg THE WEEKLY MAIL in English for 8-14 November in a page 24 editorial says the government has not "fully woken up to the realities of the 1990s: that it no longer has either the legitimacy or the authority to rule the country on its own, and attempts being made hurriedly to restructure the economy before a handing over of power will meet with costly resistance. Hopefully, that point was driven home this week once and for all," during the anti-VAT protest stayaway.

SOUTH

Resistance To Value-Added Tax Government's 'Undoing'—"If there is one issue that will be the final undoing of the De Klerk government, it is the widespread resistance provoked by VAT [value-added tax]," declares Cape Town SOUTH in English for 31 October-6 November in a page 6 editorial. "In the long-run, VAT may be a 'better tax'. But what stands out today is the high-handed and callous manner in which it was conceived and applied by Finance Minister Barend du Plessis. The immoral taxation on many basic foods and much medical care has provoked outrage. In the sorry state of South Africa's economy, Nat [National Party] VAT is the last thing people want to experience."

NEW ERA

Botswana Soldiers Kill Namibians Along Border—Windhoek NEW ERA in English for 24-30 October warns in its page 10 editorial that the Namibian border with Botswana, in the Caprivi, is gradually becoming a killing field. Hardly a year passes without Namibians losing their lives from "seemingly trigger happy members of the Botswana Defence Force." "There is an ominous smell of jungle law, where soldiers of a friendly country go beyond the basic dictates of safeguarding their national borders and, taking the law in their hands, become judges and executioners of what can best be described as primitive justice."

RSA Press Review for 10, 11 Nov

MB1111050991

[Editorial Report]

SUNDAY TIMES

Failure of Nerve—"The National Party, taunted beyond endurance, has reverted in recent days to the style of bluster and threat that made men like John Vorster and P.W. Botha objects of derision abroad and loathing at home. This time, however, there has been a difference: When the party was in total control, its periodic displays of ill-temper were frightening; now that it has lost the capacity to govern efficiently, or even to enforce the law and to protect its citizens, its threats are empty and its petulance is ridiculous," writes Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English on 10 November in its page 28 editorial.

De Klerk's track record over the past 21 months has been excellent. "But it has been a strain. His alliances are strained; his capacity to govern has been weakened to the point where simple crime seems often to be overwhelming civilised society; his weaker Cabinet colleagues are beginning to panic; and the need to endure taunts and insults and provocations, in order to preserve negotiations and to bring his political foes to the table, has become an unbearable frustration. But he has made a stand on the wrong battlefield." COSATU's two-day stayaway earlier in the week was "a successful demonstration of support, discipline and organisational ability to which the government had no answer".

"This was followed, fortuitously, by the dramatic demonstration that the ANC—and the ANC alone—holds the key to South Africa's return to international sport, and through sport to full participation in international life." The return to the Olympics and the issues of the flag and anthem were reduced to "a devious political squabbling recalling the most nauseating behaviour of the Nationalists in their inglorious past" rather than a potent focus for reconciliation. The right-wingers saw it as "capitulation". "Meanwhile, the pettiness of the issue—a piece of fabric flying in the wind, a tune, a nickname—both symbolises and conceals a deeper problem: whether the people who set us on the road to what President de Klerk himself called 'a new South Africa' are prepared, either emotionally or intellectually, to face the full implications of their own actions. Having turned away from a war they could not win, they now balk at the terms of making peace."

SUNDAY STAR

'Dogmatic,' 'Rhetorical Over-Kill' Unnecessary—"President de Klerk's dogmatic statement that the NP is not prepared to allow the ANC or any other movement to take over power was badly timed, coming just weeks before the start of multi-party talks," writes Johannesburg SUNDAY STAR in English on 10 November in its page 12 editorial. "Mr de Klerk's prospective negotiating partners could, with justification, question his bona fides if he has already excluded the possibility of any other party taking over power." While he was seeking "to reassure" National Party members who might fear the ANC was about to take over the country, he sounded suspiciously like "other African leaders who have refused to relinquish power". "What he was really driving at was that his party will insist on its own plan for minority influence over a future government with minor concessions after negotiations, but that no other constitutional plan will be considered seriously." Since all four National Party provincial congresses have accepted the constitutional plan, "there was no need for him to indulge in rhetorical over-kill to play to a gallery that has already signalled its support for his leadership". "Mr de Klerk should have instead taken his cue from the many Transitional NP congress delegates who voiced their eagerness for rapid progress, such as the Nat who said, to applause, that people should stop calling themselves Afrikaners and become South Africans instead."

BUSINESS DAY

Political 'Power Plays'—"Politicians play to the gallery. ANC President Nelson Mandela is a master of the game. And, as De Klerk showed last week, he is no slouch either," states a page 12 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 11 November entitled 'Power Plays'. "This is not to suggest that political discourse is merely a game. There are crucial issues at stake, not the least of which are the ANC alliance's sometimes cavalier attitudes to the economy—demonstrated by stayaways and weird policy proposals—and the NP's occasional hankering for a 'new South Africa' little changed from the old. De Klerk's inability to accept graciously even changes to symbols such as sporting colours and the anthem is a worrying sign. So is his suggestion that employers have lost the will to act decisively in their own best interests."

SOWETAN

Minister's Education Policy Viewed—"How does one explain the actions of Education and Training Minister Sam de Beer when he announces plans to give blacks a say in spending the department's budget," asks a page 8 commentary in the Johannesburg SOWETAN in English

on 11 November. The commentary continues by stating that action on the government's part must not be unilateral. "If De Beer wants to normalise schooling and come up with a blueprint for the future, let him first discuss this with our political organisations. He must reconcile their thinking with his, and they, his with theirs. Only then can he be taken seriously. At the moment it is still Government prescribing solutions and expecting blacks to slot in."

Springbok Sporting Symbol—A commentary on the same page states, "The Springbok, so long a symbol of white exclusivity, is going to be a difficult beast to bury. This can be deduced from the almost hysterical reaction from mainly whites to the decision of South Africa's Olympic committee to hoist a neutral flag and march to Beethoven's music at next year's Barcelona games." It is "preposterous" and "insensitive" to continuing using the symbols of the old South Africa. The commentary concludes, "A final decision on symbols of national unity for South Africa will have to be taken by a representative body like a constituent assembly. Under the circumstances the decision of the Olympic committee to opt for neutral symbols as an interim measure is correct."

Angola

Luanda Radio Reports Curfew Imposed in Cabinda

MB1211201591 Luanda Radio Nacional Network
in Portuguese 1900 GMT 12 Nov 91

[Text] A curfew has been imposed in Cabinda following antigovernment demonstration over the weekend. The curfew will run between 2100 [2000 GMT] and 0500 [0400 GMT].

The demonstrators had tried to raid the government provincial headquarters, as well as a Catholic church during worship time. (Six) people were killed and 18 others wounded following the incident.

Cabinda Provincial Governor Augusto da Silva Tomas said the situation is under control [words indistinct] to avoid similar incidents.

[Begin Tomas recording] [Words indistinct] to allow a free movement of people and goods, as well as the adoption of necessary [words indistinct] and security measures to avoid similar incidents. [end recording]

Cabinda Party Meets, Demands Independence

MB1311072391 Luanda Radio Nacional Network
in Portuguese 0600 GMT 13 Nov 91

[Text] The Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enciave, FLEC, has held a three-day congress in Lisbon. It has announced that it will propose a unilateral truce plan soon. Congress Spokesman Francisco Vandi did not give any details about the plan, which should guarantee the normalization of the situation in Cabinda.

At the end of the Lisbon meeting, FLEC rejected the Angolan Government's proposal of autonomy for Cabinda and demanded independence for that province. FLEC announced a negotiating commission and accepted Portuguese mediation.

The Angolan Government intends to begin talks on Cabinda as soon as possible. The Angolan Government also believes that the first item for discussion should be a cease-fire accord.

There were some incidents in Cabinda Province, particularly in Cabinda city, in the course of last week. Nevertheless, Cabinda Province Governor Augusto Tomas has told Radio Angola that the situation is already under control.

Botswana

Minister Criticizes Populace on Misuse of Resources

MB2510142491 Gaborone Radio Botswana Network
in English 1910 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] The vice president and minister of local government, lands and housing, Mr. Peter Mmusi, has accused Botswana of misusing the country's scarce land resources.

Mr. Mmusi made the accusation when opening a three-day seminar on the new agricultural policy in Francistown today. He told the more than 100 participants in the seminar that it's disturbing to see land suitable for agriculture being lost to competing land users. He gave the example of the arable land which has been converted into a settlement.

The participants were further told of the need for a well planned land use. The process of converting land from agriculture to residential use was proving that the reverse process is [word indistinct], warned Mr. Mmusi.

The vice president said the reliable [word indistinct] of the important [word indistinct] soils are the main reasons for shortage of agricultural land. He said the problem created by the physical environment was already too great, and said it could be made worse by mismanaging the scarce resources available to the country.

Mr. Mmusi also talked against the cutting of trees at wrong times and wrong places, and the continuing expansion of agriculture. He said this posed a threat to both the physical environment, environment and forestry related enterprises. He said it was only through proper coordination and cooperation that programs on land management could be successfully implemented.

Mr. Mmusi further warned that land lost through application for wrong purposes or overgrazing cannot be restored. He recognized that there are conflicts, particularly between wildlife and livestock in some areas, but he said this conflict can be addressed through proper land use and planning.

He further briefed participants on the use of projects planned by the Ministry of Agriculture and the NDP-7, which includes land monitoring and planning. The project, he said, will be implemented with the assistance of the UN Development Program and the Food and Agricultural Organization. Through the project, a methodology to evaluate land for various competing uses will be developed, he said.

Deletgates further heard that one of the products intended is a land suited [word indistinct] map due for publication early next year. He said once implemented, the project will not only generate information indicating levels of performance, but will also indicate [word indistinct] associated with [word indistinct] land use.

Other projects are the soil conservation, which allows the Ministry of Agriculture to assist farmers adopt appropriate management techniques and that of forestry, which will place emphasis in rehabilitation of forests and land resources in areas where forests have been depleted.

Mozambique**Council of Ministers Approves 1992 Budget, Laws**

MB0911060991 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers has established a working group which will evaluate procedures concerning the appointment, promotion, and integration of, and the granting of seniority bonus and other rights to civil servants. The measure is aimed at improving the fulfillment of those rights.

During a session held this week, the Council of Ministers also assessed the law approving the 1992 State General Budget, the Law Revising the Internal Regulations of the Bank of Mozambique, the Law on the Creation of National Health Service, and the Law on Health Assistance by Private Agencies.

The Council of Ministers also approved the resolution which simplifies the granting of seniority bonus to Group E teachers.

Namibia**Nujoma Cited on Joint Project With Angola**

MB2510145691 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1342 GMT 25 Oct 91

[Text] Windhoek Oct 25 SAPA—Namibia and Angola have signed a cooperation agreement on the future development of the proposed hydro-electric scheme Namibia is to build at Epupa on the Kunene River bordering the two countries.

It was signed at Lubango in southern Angola on Thursday during a meeting between Namibian President Sam Nujoma and the Angolan head of state Mr Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

Mr Nujoma said on his return a feasibility study still had to be done. A joint committee would be set up with members from Angola and Namibia to conduct negotiations and the feasibility study.

After approval of the exact dam site in the Epupa region about 130km west of the existing Ruacana hydro-electric scheme, the project would then go ahead, Mr Nujoma said.

The proposed dam for the hydro-electric scheme has a capacity of 5000 million cubic metres providing water to generate between 450 and 500 megawatts of electricity. It also holds vast potential for irrigation in the region.

The projected cost of the Epupa project, expected to begin in 1993 and take seven years to complete, is R[and]2.5 billion.

At Thursday's meeting Mr Nujoma said joint use of water from the Kavango River, which also borders Botswana, was also discussed.

Zambia**Kaunda Rejects Call To Retire From Politics**

MB1011164391 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1520 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] Lusaka Nov 10 SAPA—Former Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda has firmly rejected appeals from the rank and file members of his United National Independence Party [UNIP] to retire from active politics.

"Members of the party still want me to be their leader. The people want me," he said, parrying claims by former UNIP Central Committee member Enock Kavindile that his party had suffered a crushing defeat in the October 31 elections because Dr Kaunda was a political liability.

Speaking at his first press conference in Lusaka on Sunday since his defeat by the Movement for Multiparty Democracy [MMD], the ex-President stressed: "We are happy that the elections were conducted without bloodshed. We managed change without bloodshed because we are democrats".

Looking pale and frail, Dr Kaunda said also, "I want you to know that we are determined to genuinely make the new government work because we are fighting to establish the genuine roots of democracy".

He nevertheless took the opportunity to cry foul over the outcome of the elections claiming: "Something definitely went wrong. The party will make a statement at a press conference on Wednesday".

But, Dr Kaunda explained, this did not mean that his party would make it impossible for the government to work.

"We shall support the movement but I regret the manner in which former government officials were being harassed and evicted from their homes in the most unZambian fashion."

Zambia had paid a high price in crusading the liberation struggle in southern Africa—resulting in the independence for Angola, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe and influencing the political change in South Africa, he said.

"It is a contribution we should all be proud of. This we shall continue to uphold."

The UNIP president also made changes at senior party level, announcing the appointment of former Zambian Prime Minister Kebby Musokotwane as the new UNIP secretary-general.

Appoints New UNIP Officials

MB1011184791 Lusaka Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1800 GMT 10 Nov 91

[Text] UNIP [United National Independence Party] President Dr. Kenneth Kaunda today named the former prime minister, Kebby Musokotwane, as new UNIP secretary general succeeding Mr. Grey Zulu who retired last August. Dr. Kaunda also announced other changes in the UNIP leadership, and described his new team as one that will take UNIP back to power.

In the new look UNIP, Dr. Kaunda appointed another former prime minister, Malimba Masheke, as head of the 10-man Department of Mobilization. The department is subdivided into three wings: Political, Youth, and Women Affairs headed by Lieutenant General (Benjamin Mulemba), [name indistinct] (Malabwe), and (Mark Chipanda), respectively.

Former Secretary of State for Defense and Security Mr. Alex Shapi will head UNIP's Defense and Security Wing.

Speaking to newsmen at Freedom House, Dr. Kaunda announced chairmen to eight provinces. Mary Fulabo, Central; Alexander Kamalondo, Copperbelt; Haswell Mwale, Eastern; Augustus Katobobwe, Luapula, and [name indistinct], Lusaka. Others are Mulondwe Muzungu, North Western; Joseph Mutale, Northern; Daniel Munkombwe, Southern; and Peter Mulombota in Western Province.

Government Freezes Assets in UNIP Bank Accounts

*MB1111092191 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0741 GMT 11 Nov 91*

[Text] Lusaka Nov 11 SAPA—A team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is expected in Lusaka later this week to thrash out an aid package to assist Zambia's economy. Zambia's minister of finance, Mr Emmanuel Kasonde, also said many donor countries and agencies had shown willingness to help Zambia in its change to a democratic political system.

Speaking at a public meeting in the Northern Province capital of Kasama on Sunday [10 November], Mr Kasonde said hard work in all sectors of the economy would supplement efforts by donors. Mr Kasonde stressed: "We must work hard because donors' assistance alone cannot extricate the country from the economic decay created over many years."

He said the government had frozen withdrawals from accounts of the opposition United National Independence Party (UNIP) with effect from Monday. Mr Kasonde has directed all commercial banks to stop any withdrawals from UNIP accounts, pointing out that accountability was the key word. However, the measure did not amount to freezing the financial assets but only affected withdrawals.

President Frederick Chiluba revealed last weekend that his administration had blocked a ZMK[Zambian kwacha]80 million cheque while another ZMK20 million was pounced on before a second signatory could endorse it.

Zimbabwe

IMF Mission Finalizing Details for Loan

*MB0911175291 Johannesburg Radio RSA in English
1500 GMT 9 Nov 91*

[Text] A mission from the International Monetary Fund is in Zimbabwe to finalize details of an urgent loan of

about 2,000 [figure as heard] million United States dollars to bridge the finance gap in the five-year economic reform program.

Earlier, a Zimbabwe Government delegation was in Thailand lobbying for access to funds under the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility. Economists in Harare have said there is a good chance that Zimbabwe will be granted the loan.

Minister on Removing Subsidies, Decontrolling Prices

*MB0911123091 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1134 GMT 9 Nov 91*

[Text] Harare Nov 9 SAPA—The Zimbabwe Government was currently in the process of gradually removing subsidies on some basic consumer products, Industry and Commerce Minister Kumbirai Kangai said in Harare. This was in addition to decontrolling prices of most basic consumer goods brought about by trade liberalisation last year, he said.

ZIANA, Zimbabwe's domestic news agency, reports that Mr Kangai was speaking at the Consumer Council of Zimbabwe [CCZ] annual general meeting on Friday [8 November]. By 1995 only a short list of subsidies would remain, Mr Kangai said. "This does not mean that we are leaving consumers at the mercy of traders. This is where your organisation, in conjunction with my ministry, will be required to flex its muscles.

"The CCZ should intensify its price-monitoring exercise to ensure that there is no unscrupulous taking advantage of price decontrols," the minister added. Any anomalies in those areas should be reported to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, which he said would not hesitate to act against unscrupulous dealers. "My ministry is still empowered to take corrective action where unfair trade practices are detected."

Mr Kangai called on the CCZ to embark on a campaign to educate consumers on their role in a de-regulated market, and how to exercise their rights in order to obtain a fair deal.

Mugabe Arrives in Germany on Official Visit

WA1211180791

For Johannesburg, Harare, and Bonn reportage on the 11-12 official visit by President Robert Mugabe and a delegation which includes Foreign Minister Nathan Shamuyarira to Germany, including reports on his talks with Richard von Weizsaecker, German president; Helmut Kohl, German chancellor; and other German officials on increased German aid to Zimbabwe, please see the Germany section of the 11 November West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Niger

Prime Minister Cheiffou Names New Cabinet

AB0711181991 Paris AFP in French
1542 GMT 7 Nov 91

[Text] Niamey, 7 Nov (AFP)—This is the official list of the Niger Government, as made public today in Niamey by Mr. Amadou Cheiffou, prime minister of the transition period:

Prime Minister, Minister of National Defense	Amadou Cheiffou
Minister of National Education and Research	Albert Wright
Minister of Interior	Mohamed Moussa
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	Hassane Hamidou
Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals	Counselor Souna Issake
Minister of Economy and Finance	Laoual Chaffani
Minister of Agriculture and Animal Breeding	Boukar Abba Malam
Minister of Water Resources and Environment	Hassane Abdou
Minister of Mines, Energy, Industry, and Cottage Industry	Mahamadou Ouhoumoudou
Minister of Public Health	Souleymane Saidou
Minister of Social Development, Population, and Women's Promotion	Mrs. Aissata Bagna
Minister of Communication, Culture, Youth, and Sports; Government Spokesman	Adam El Back
Minister of Equipment, Transports, and Territorial Development	Laouali Baraou
Minister of Civil Service and Labor	Mrs. Mariama Banakoye
Secretary of State for National Defense	Mamane Moussa
Secretary of State for Education, in Charge of Nursery, Primary, Secondary Education, and Literacy	Moustapha Dan Bouzoua
Secretary of State for Interior	Ibrahim Komma
Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, in charge of Cooperation	Mohamed Bazoum
Secretary of State at the Ministry of Economy and Finance, in charge of the Budget	Mamane Ibrahim
Secretary of State at the Ministry of Economy and Finance, in charge of Commerce and Tourism	Adamou Salifou

Introduces Cabinet to HCR Chairman

AB0811114091 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network
in French 0545 GMT 8 Nov 91

[Text] The composition of the new transition Cabinet was announced yesterday. The 20-member Cabinet has 14 ministers, including two women and six state secretaries. This transitional government, which is expected

to lead our country to free and democratic elections, was presented to the chairman of the High Council of the Republic [HCR] yesterday. During the ceremony, Prime Minister Amadou Cheiffou stressed that the Cabinet included competent and honest technocrats.

In his reply to the prime minister, the HCR chairman, Professor Andre Salifou, wished success to the transition government and asked the country as a whole to firmly support this Cabinet in order to meet the challenge.

Head of Conference on Abuse, Crime Resigns

AB0211130991 Dakar PANA in English 1149 GMT
2 Nov 91

[Text] Niamey, 2 Nov (ANP/PANA) - The chairman of the commission on crimes and abuses of the national conference in Niger, Mamane Abou and six other members accused of incompetence and partiality, resigned from the commission on Friday [1 November].

Delegates to the forum had expressed their dissatisfaction with the manner in which they carried out investigations on military officers involved in the Tchintara-baden massacres in May 1990 which led to the deaths of 64 people.

Meanwhile, the conference has set up a High Council on Communication (CSC) charged with ensuring the independence of the mass communications sector, among other things.

The council is made up of nine members, five of them professionals in the media and telecommunications and four members from the civil society.

It is being chaired by Mazou Mahama, a technician in the country's Post and Telecommunications Department (OPT) and representative of the Federation of Labor Unions of Niger (USTN) at the national conference.

Nigeria

Accord Signed With Japan To Reschedule Debt

AB3010162591 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 2100 GMT 28 Oct 91

[Text] Nigeria has signed an agreement for the rescheduling of her debt with Japan. Under it, governmental and parastatal loans will now be repaid over a period of 20 years with three years' grace period, while commercial debts will become payable over 15 years with eight years' grace period.

The agreement completes the rescheduling of over 80 percent or about \$2,142 billion of Nigeria's external debts to 16 participating countries of the Paris Club.

The minister of finance and economic development, Alhaji Abubakar Alhaji, said at the ceremony in Lagos today that without a substantial relief, the burden of debt service would jeopardize Nigeria's effort to sustain a credible adjustment program. He stated that the percentage of resources currently used to meet the external debt service obligation was too high compared to what is utilized to service the domestic economy.

Alhaji Abubakar said that Japan was one the developed nations that had shown interest in helping Nigeria for industrial breakthrough. He urged Japan to support liberal industrialized countries like Britain to alleviate the debt burden of developing Third World countries.

The Japanese ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Yasushi Kurokochi, who signed for his country, pledged that Japan would continue to assist in financing viable projects in Nigeria according to the agreed schedule.

Babangida on 'Desperate Politicians'; New States

*AB0611153591 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 0600 GMT 6 Nov 91*

[Excerpt] President Ibrahim Babangida has warned that the nation will not tolerate desperate politicians. Speaking in Calabar last night at a civic reception held for him, General Babangida said that no politician was tailor-made for any particular office. He therefore advised those who lost in the last party primaries to wait for another opportunity in the future. Gen. Babangida remarked that with the conduct of the party primaries, the bottom lines for the governorship contest had been drawn. However, he appealed that the contest should not be seen as war. The president said that although ambition was one of the potent driving forces in the life of a man, it must always be (?mitigated) by a sense of proportion. He restated that his administration would not allow inordinate political ambition to generate violence, mayhem, and other ills of the past.

Gen. Babangida also commented on controversies generated by the recent creation of new states and local governments in the country. He said that while it was the legitimate aspiration of communities to demand for [as heard] the creation of local governments, not all aspirations could be fulfilled because of the limited resources at the disposal of government. The president gave an assurance that his administration would continue to address and redress problems of intra- and interstate boundaries. He said his administration would always appreciate the rights of citizens to vent their grievances in a responsible manner. [passage omitted]

Operation to Apprehend Illegal Aliens Launched

*AB3110175591 Lagos Voice of Nigeria in English
1030 GMT 31 Oct 91*

[Text] An operation to apprehend aliens without any visible means of livelihood and resident permits has been launched in all the local government areas in the country. The exercise has been carried out by immigration officers in an effort to rid the country of illegal immigrants and repatriate them. The minister of internal affairs, Major General Bagudu Mamman, announced this in Lagos.

He said that it will be wrong to assume that those roaming the streets of urban centers were illegal aliens. The minister explained that the new immigration law had made it impossible for aliens to illegally penetrate the country en masse and roam the streets freely. Maj. Gen. Mamman said that the new system of issuance of international passports has helped to curb activities of touts.

Presidency Issues Order on Firearms Licenses

*AB2710184691 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 2100 GMT 25 Oct 91*

[Text] The Presidency has issued an order on the revocation of firearms licenses throughout the country. The order, which takes immediate effect, covers the dealers' licenses, the personal firearms licenses, the prohibited firearms licenses, the muzzle-loading firearms and guns permits, and the firearms repairs licenses. Holders of all the licenses or permits which are included in the list of those suspended by the order are directed forthwith to present them within nine weeks to the licensing authorities where they were issued for revalidation.

Senegal

Opposition LD-MPT Leader To Run for President

*AB0711114391 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
0730 GMT 7 Nov 91*

[Text] In Africa, some Senegalese political parties are already bracing up for the presidential elections scheduled for February 1993. The secretary general of the Democratic League-Labor Party Movement [LD-MPT] has announced that he will run in the elections. Abdoulaye Bathily, who is a history teacher, is the second opposition figure to announce his candidacy after Babacar Niang, leader of the Party for the People's Liberation.

Sierra Leone

President Momoh Commends Guinean Troops

*AB0911210091 Freetown SLBS Radio in English
2000 GMT 8 Nov 91*

[Text] The continent of Guinean troops which arrived in Sierra Leone seven months ago to assist in repelling Charles Taylor's NPFL [National Patriotic Front of

Liberia] invaders into Sierra Leone has returned home at the end of its assignment. Formally taking leave of the officers and men at Mashenka on Wednesday [6 November], President Momoh recalled that eight months ago when Charles Taylor and his bandits unleashed their reign of terror on the peaceful citizens of this country, he solicited the assistance of the friendly leader, government, and people of Guinea, who responded immediately and favorably to his request, and that since then, the gallant soldiers of Guinea fought alongside our Army in (?flushing) out the rebels from this country.

He commended them for their exemplary performance, noting that they are great fighters. On behalf of the government and people of this country, President Momoh thanked the Guinean soldiers for what he described as their wonderful assistance to our people. He observed that in any war there was bound to be casualties, and prayed that those who lost their lives fighting for the cause of freedom and civilization did not do so in vain. He appreciated that the cost of maintaining the Guinean soldiers was borne by the Guinean Government, and assured the soldiers that the doors of Sierra Leone are always open to them.

Earlier, the first secretary at the Guinean Embassy, Mr. Abou Bakar Camara, said that the Guinean contribution was aimed at the maintenance of peace and security in the region. He also commended them for fighting fearlessly against the rebels in order to protect this country and its economy. On arrival at the Community Center at Mashenka, President Momoh was welcomed by the force commander, Major General M.S. Tarawale, the Guinean troop commandant, Ibrahim Cisse, and the liaison officer Lieutenant (J. Gerard). A minute's silence was observed in memory of those who lost their lives during the struggle for liberation from the NPFL mercenaries.

War With Liberian Rebels 'Virtually' Over

*AB0811104491 Paris AFP in English 0255 GMT
8 Nov 91*

[Text] Freetown, Nov 7 (AFP)—Guinea has replaced troops deployed in neighboring Sierra Leone in April to oust suspected Liberian rebels who invaded the country in March.

Sierra Leone President Joseph Momoh told the departing soldiers at Masiaka some 64 kilometers (40 miles) from here Wednesday that the war against Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebels was "virtually now over," as combined forces were carrying out "mopping up operations."

The departing contingent, commanded by Major Ibrahim Cisse, left Sierra Leone by road Thursday. The number of troops was not disclosed, but diplomats earlier put the size of the Guinean contingent at 271 at the eastern military post at Daru.

Guinean reinforcements are now located in Baiima, a town near the eastern border with Liberia, which is regarded as rebels' last stronghold before officials claim it was recaptured two weeks ago in a combined Sierra Leonean and Guinean troop attack.

Four Guinean and 10 Sierra Leonean soldiers were reportedly killed in the unconfirmed fighting while over 300 rebels were said to have been killed. Taylor has repeatedly denied involvement in the border incursions since March, blaming Sierra Leone dissidents for the attacks.

Togo

French Cooperation, Development Minister Arrives

*AB0411204091 Lome Voix de la Nouvelle Marche
Network in French 1230 GMT 4 Nov 91*

[Text] The French cooperation and development minister, Madam Edwige Avice, arrived this morning in Lome by road from Cotonou, the Beninese capital. Madam Avice, who is expected to hold discussions with Togolese authorities, was welcomed at the Hilacondji border post by Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Abdou Toure Tchiaka; the French ambassador to Togo, (Bruno Delaye); and the Lakes prefect, Mr. Evako.

Soon after her arrival in Lome, the French minister was received by the head of state, General Eyadema, at Lome II for more than one hour. Madam Avice is now holding discussions with the prime minister. These discussions will be followed by the signing of a cooperation agreement at the Renewal Palace and a French-Togolese working luncheon.

Ethnic Clashes Reported in Guerin Kouka

*AB0911101991 Lome Voix de la Nouvelle Marche
Network in French 1900 GMT 8 Nov 91*

[Text] As the Mobas and the Chokossi are still counting their dead and healing their wounds following the Barkoissi tragedy, it is now the turn of the people of Guerin Kouka, chief town of (?Dapaong) Prefecture, to live in an atmosphere of violence. Since yesterday, Mossis and Konkombas have been clashing. As of now, three people have been killed and several seriously wounded, houses and vehicles have been set ablaze, and thousands of Mossis have been repatriated to Bassar, Kabou, and Kara.

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